

STUDY GUIDE SOCHUM

— BAU x MARMARA TRAIN '22



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A. Letter from the Secretary-General

Honorable Participants,

It is an honor to welcome you all to the first edition of Marmara Train Conference which will be held in 17-18 December in İstanbul, Turkey.

As Marmara Mun Society after we heal the scars that pandemic gives, we are ready again to reach the same level of perfection again. In 2021-2022 academic year, we were really disappointed about the level of conferences and delegates in Turkish Mun Society. After we demonstrate our academic level in conferences that we attend last year, as Marmara Mun Society we take it as a duty to train delegates to make MUN community competitive and catch the diplomatic atmosphere of pre-pandemic level again with the strength which comes from our 7 years of history and experience. In my ninth year, after numerous MUN experiences in different countries, It's such a point of honor for me to organize and lead such kind of an organization at the last year of my career.

In this conference, we start with planning 6 committees. Two of them will be High School level, two of them will be university level. We choose DISEC, SOCHUM and WHO committees which can be younger participants can discuss and cover agenda items better and get used to MUN procedure easily. For the University level committees which are ECOFIN, SPECPOL and UN WOMEN prepared to show Turkish Mun Community how things going on at International Level.

MarmaraMun and BAUMUN Family works harder than ever to strive for perfection with their new generation while following the light of our past. We invite you BAU X MarmaraTrain'22 for a perfect start to your MUN career.

Best Regards,

Yiğit Bilir
Secretary General

B. Letter from the Deputy Secretary-General

Honorable Participants,

As the Deputy Secretary General of BAU X MARMARA Model United Nations Conference, it is worth to state that we make difference by striving for perfection, as always. Being a big family instead of teammates allowed us to work hard and pay attention even to the smallest details to make this conference unforgettable for you. All of our agenda items are related to current issues which need to be discussed upon by intelligent people, and I strongly believe that the hope for the future is the young critical thinkers ready to make sound. In this context, I suggest all of the delegates read this helpful document carefully and make their further research before the conference. I wish a great conference by collaborating and fairly taking help from diplomacy to create a better world altogether.

Good luck,

Elif Nazlı KAFADAR
Deputy Secretary General

SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND CULTURAL COMMITTEE (SOCHUM)

The Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee is the third General Assembly of the United Nations, tasked with a broad mandate surrounding social, humanitarian, and human rights issues from around the world. To delineate a general idea of the committee, some issues discussed within SOCHUM include, but are not limited to: human rights, global literacy, women's rights, children's rights, the treatment of refugees and displaced persons, international drug control, crime prevention, and the elimination of racism and discrimination. SOCHUM also works closely with many other UN bodies in order to effectually address its mandated issues.

The work of the committee focuses on human rights, humanitarian affairs and social issues. In addition, it also considers issues relating to:

- The advancement of women



- The protection of children
- The protection of indigenous populations, and related issues
- The treatment of refugees, and related issues such as racism and discrimination
- The promotion of fundamental freedoms
- The right to self-determination
- Youth, family and ageing
- The rights of persons with disabilities
- Crime prevention and criminal justice
- The international drug trade, and related issues¹

Introduction to the Agenda Item: Steaming Platforms as a Median for Fringe Communities

Definition of streaming:

Streaming refers to any media content – live or recorded – delivered to computers and mobile devices via the internet and played back in real time. Podcasts, webcasts, movies, TV shows and music videos are common forms of streaming content.²

Distinguishing delivery method from the media applies specifically to telecommunications networks, as most of the traditional media delivery systems are either inherently streaming (e.g. radio, television) or inherently non-streaming (e.g. books, videotape, audio CDs). There are challenges with streaming content on the Internet. For example, users whose Internet connection lacks sufficient bandwidth may experience stops, lags, or poor buffering of the content, and users lacking compatible hardware or software systems may be unable to stream certain content. With the use of buffering of the content for just a few seconds in advance of playback, the quality can be much improved.

Livestreaming is the real-time delivery of content during production, much as live television broadcasts content via television channels. Livestreaming requires a form of source media (e.g. a video camera, an audio interface, screen capture software), an encoder to digitize the content, a media publisher, and a content delivery network to distribute and deliver the content.

Streaming is an alternative to file downloading, a process in which the end-user obtains the entire file for the content before watching or listening to it. Through streaming, an end-user can use their media player to start playing digital video or digital audio content before the entire file has been transmitted. The term "streaming media" can apply to media other than video and audio, such as live closed captioning, ticker tape, and real-time text, which are all considered "streaming

¹ "The GA Handbook: A Practical Guide to the United Nations General Assembly", Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, 2017

² "Streaming", Verizon, 2020



text". Streaming is most prevalent in video on demand and streaming television services. Other services stream music or video games.³

Live Streaming:

Live streaming is the broadcast of an event over the internet as it happens. Awards shows, sports, boxing matches, video games and special one-time events are the most popular types of live streaming with an ever-growing menu of topics. Livestreaming can take place in various platforms e.g., social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, twitch, etc. It can be used to broadcast everything from; celebrity events, promotions and casual livestreaming done by a single (or a group of) user(s).

New-Age Extremism:

With the developments and ever-increasing use of the internet, particularly social media, there has been an increase in extremism and its dissemination online. The internet is distinguished for its ability to allow information dissemination, provide conversation and support public debates, and now also as a tool that allows individuals to promote extremism and reinforce prejudices).

Research has suggested that the virtual nature of online extremism is a case of old crime in new bottles, assuming that it is in fact no different to terrestrial crime such as extremism and hate that occurs offline. The issue with this postulation is that cyber-mediated crime such as online extremism is not comparable to conditions of offline crime, the cyber nature of crime provides criminals with alternative methods of access and opportunities for harm and disorder. The infrastructural properties of the internet particularly on social media sites can provide individuals with different opportunities when distributing extremism online, compared to disseminating extremism offline. Extremists may take advantage of how the internet provides the potential for greater reach and impact and an ability remain anonymous. The infrastructure of social media networks can provide individuals with the ability to remain effectively in the public reach even in most absurd cases . It has been suggested that being behind a computer compared to face to face communication provides individuals with a sense of security and anonymity, which can cause them to act differently This has important implications as we know that this can lead to deindividuation which is when individuals use anonymity to cause group members to fail to acknowledge themselves as individuals. Research has also demonstrated that the level of extreme narrative disseminated online can be a product of a user's levels of anonymity.

The design of social media networks can create echo chamber environments. Social media sites can facilitate the dissemination and polarisation of extremism through the development of echo chamber environments. These echo chamber environments can form as a result of how the internet has created an environment which prevents opinionated discussions, but rather encourages individuals to engage with likeminded individuals whose beliefs and views are aligned. Social media platforms produce an environment for like-minded individuals to cluster together and

³ A.D. Gelman, S. Halfin et al.,'' On buffer requirements for store-and-forward video on demand service circuits'', Countdown to the New Millennium Conference Record, 2019.



provide reaffirmation, these echo chamber environments are protected from alternative perspectives which therefore works to reinforce its beliefs and confirm any biases. In this way, groups can be formed, and we can see sections of the online community become cyber mobs. Research has documented how these echo chamber environments can manifest differently on different social media sites and streaming services.⁴

In the sense of streaming platforms (mainly live streaming platforms) the users are observed to lose a sense of the difference between the public and private space; and as an individual's extremist/fringe mode of thinking starts echoing (as defined above), said individuals might start to mention their said ideology as a common/casual status with their accumulated audience. Which will, consequently, consumed by the already existing audience and spread to other individuals.

A Brief Example: Andrew Tate and the Incel Community

Incels are defined as members of an online subculture of (generally) men who want to have sexual intercourse but are unable to find sexual partners, typically blaming women (or opposite gender) or hating people who are sexually successful.⁵

As in political psychology, groups that are repressed and agitated are more prone to excessive ideologies. Thus, seeing it as a way of self-justification, self-validation followed by the group-validation and redemption. In most cases of extremism, one of the being the incels, the individual is emotionally overwhelmed and disturbed, leaving oneself susceptible to develop cult like devotedness to an ideology (which is perpetrated by an individual most of the time). And in practice, these glorified individuals exploit the agitated individuals for their social, financial or emotional gain.⁶

In the case of Andrew Tate, we see an individual with a net-worth of 300 Million dollars, gained by multiple business ventures (one of them being self-merchandise) mainly targeted to his audience and exacerbated by his online presence which capitalizes on his misogynistic, sexist, misanthropic, etc. ideologies. His ideologies are mainly catered to the incels, and incel like audiences as way of promoting himself and his tactics in "succeeding in life".

He shared his ideologies on social media platform, but he mainly utilized "podcasts" (as mode of streaming) until he was banned from all sorts of social media and streaming platforms as a consequence of his ideas were deemed extreme, absurd, self-serving and dangerous to younger audience.

⁴ Imran Arwan et al., "Extremism Online - Analysis of extremist material on social media", Birmingham City University

⁵ Oxford Dictionary

⁶ Ayşegül Yaraman, "Toplumsal Değişme ve Kişilik Özellikleri", Bağlam yayınları, 2015



The Problematic:

Disruption of the social welfare – Social welfare is one of the most important things to a society to have. Without social welfare, living in a peaceful society is near to impossible. However, sometimes highly fringe elements can affect people in negative ways and this may lead to the existence of *fringe groups*. Fringe groups' attempt to defend their own opinion in a society sometimes ends with enormous propagandas and extremely violent actions. These events can result in traumas in minority groups, children, homeless people etc.

- Effects of the fringe elements to the freedom of speech – Freedom of speech, or freedom of expression, is referred as the rights that people naturally have in order to express their opinions, expressions and ideas without depending to the government or somebody else. People who are included in the fringe groups are usually has low education status and they generally stick up to their ideas and reject to listen opposing ideas. This situation causes to a non-objective environment, which only accepts biased opinions, and people who oppose to fringe elements are being silenced.
- Normalization of fringe elements in current series on streaming platforms (such as Spotify, Instagram, Twitch, YouTube, Netflix, etc.) – Even though it aims to acknowledge the people about who are against minorities (LGBTQ+ community, difference on race, religion, ethnicity and culture), this may lead some people feel supported and they feel encouraged to act provocative.
- Breach of “Equal Statement Opportunity” -- anti-democratic ideologies (strict perspectives such as dogmatism) increase the power of majority over minorities.
- What will happen if these fringe elements aren't limited? – Non-existent limitations on social platforms can be an effective way to spread fringe elements. 18+ age confirmation is sometimes not enough to hide these elements. For instance, the application Reddit can be counted as one of the most popular applications that most fringe elements can be found. Since most of the comments or posts are not limited, people can go as far as they can on the topic of fringe. More likes the posts get, the more the content will be appeared on anyone's page. That is why, Reddit is actually a very dangerous platform for the contagiousness of fringe elements and the people who encourage these actions.

What can be done to temper this issue; without prohibiting free speech, or expression? What are the obstacles that made this issue unsolvable until now?

- a. The bans on certain accounts on social media, which backlashed with provocative actions that can cause a possible conflict.
- b. Expansion of laws on the topic of being a victim of a fringe elements.



Questions a Resolution Paper Should Answer:

- a. How fringe elements can be eliminated without limiting the freedom of speech and expression?
- b. How fringe elements affect the sociopsychology of the population? How they can be solved?
- c. How implementation of fringe elements can be limited in social media or streaming platforms?
- d. How fringe elements effect the development of society?

